

Rural Electrification Targets in Jharkhand

†*167. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a target of electrification of only 250 villages in Jharkhand has been fixed under the Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana during the year 2006-07 whereas target of 40 thousand villages has been fixed for whole country in this regard;

(b) the number of villages in Jharkhand without electricity;

(c) whether the number is highest in comparison to the other States;

(d) if so, the reasons for fixing a low target for Jharkhand; and

(e) the amount allocated to Jharkhand for the electrification of villages during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) Yes, Sir. The target for village electrification for 2006-07 under Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana is 250 as project proposals from Jharkhand were received in February, May, July and October, 2006. It takes at least 24 months from the date of sanction to complete the project.

(b) There are 21713 un-electrified villages in Jharkhand.

(c) No, Sir. Uttar Pradesh has the highest (40900) number of un-electrified villages as compared to 21713 un-electrified villages in Jharkhand.

(d) Though the Jharkhand Government signed an agreement under Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana in July/August, 2005, the (Detailed Project Reports) DPRs for rural electrification were submitted very late because of lack of base data on infrastructure required for formulation of project reports. However, as on date 11 projects covering 7563 un-electrified villages, have been sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 1067.38 crores. In addition in principle approval has been accorded for 7 projects for 7319 villages at the cost of Rs. 998.27 crores.

(e) Funds under RGGVY are released in instalments commensurate with the progress achieved by the implementing agencies. The first instalment is released on award of contract. Contracts have been placed

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RAJYA SABHA

by Jharkhand State Electricity Board only in the end of November, 2006. However, an adhoc payment of Rs. 3.5 crores was released to the implementing agencies to facilitate undertaking preliminary activities such as surveys and preparation of DPRs.

Benches of Supreme Court

***168. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN:** Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) details of recommendations made by parliamentary committees for setting up of Benches of Supreme Court in the South and North-East, so far;

(b) the reasons for non implementation of these recommendations; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to fulfil the aspirations of the people in far flung regions?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ):

(a) to (c) The Department-Related Parliamentary Committee on Home Affairs concerning Department of Justice on the Demands for Grants in its 56th, 61st and 101st reports for the years 1999-2000, 2000-01 and 2003-04 respectively and the 6th Report of the Department-Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law & Justice on Demands for Grants 2005-06 of the Ministry of Law & Justice have recommended setting up of the Benches of Supreme Court outside Delhi.

According to article 130 of the Constitution, "the Supreme Court shall sit in Delhi or in such other place or places as the Chief Justice of India may, with the approval of the President, from time to time, appoint." However, the Chief Justice of India as well as the Full Court have been consistently opposed to the proposal for setting up of the Benches of the Supreme Court in the South and other regions of the country. But now, Advocate-on-Record or petitioner-in-person can file cases in the Supreme Court of India through internet.